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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/533,255	03/23/2000	Noriko Otani	35.C14356	9785

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FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

CAMPBELL, JOSHUA D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2003

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PRC

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/533,255

Applicant(s)

OTANI ET AL.

Examiner

Joshua D Campbell

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 March 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed on 03/23/2000.
2. Claims 1-45 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 23, and 45 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. **Regarding claims 1-7, 23-29, and 45**, it is unclear what is meant by the terms/phrases "cell vectors" (line 4 of claim 1), "judging a table type" (lines 7-8 of claim 1), "table type is a table for showing a table" (lines 11-12 of claim 1), "table type is a table for layout" (lines 14-15 of claim 1), and "cut direction" (line 4 of claim 2). All subsequent occurrences of these terms/phrases are also rejected.
5. **Regarding claims 8-14 and 30-36**, it is unclear what is meant by the terms/phrases "partial character line" (line 3 of claim 10) and "syntax judging" (line 3 of claim 12). All subsequent occurrences of these terms/phrases are also rejected.
6. **Regarding claims 15-22 and 37-44**, it is unclear what is meant by the terms/phrases "supplementary data removing means" (line 3 of claim 16), "analyzing the structure of the table" (line 4 of claim 17), and "regularity of information description

constituting the table" (lines 4-5 of claim 18). All subsequent occurrences of these terms/phrases are also rejected.

Corrections are required.

The art rejections that are presented below are based on the interpretation of the claims by the office based on the broadest reasonable limitations that are discussed in the rejections above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-45 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Winter et al.

("Microsoft Office 97 User Manual", published in 1998).

8. **Regarding independent claim 1**, Winter et al. disclose a method of using Microsoft Excel in which portions of a table are displayed in a separate document based on user selection. The user selects row(s), column(s), or nonconsecutive cells of the table that can be copied to a clipboard and from that clipboard items can be pulled into and displayed in a separate document. (Page 260-261, "Selecting Cells"; Page 273,

"Edit → Copy"; and Page 52-54, "Edit → Paste Special" of Winter et al.). In order for this to be accomplished it is necessary to have analyzed the table to know the location of all the cells in the table. It is inherent that a table is a method of laying out data. Thus, the method disclosed by Winter et al. is operable on both a table for layout and a data table.

9. **Regarding dependent claims 2-6**, Winter et al. disclose a method in which the user selects row(s), column(s), nonconsecutive cells of the table, or the whole table to be copied to a clipboard and from that clipboard items can be pulled into and displayed in a separate document. (Page 260-261, "Selecting Cells"; Page 273, "Edit → Copy"; and Page 52-54, "Edit → Paste Special" of Winter et al.).

10. **Regarding dependent claim 7**, Winter et al. disclose a method in which a table can be copied and pasted into a separate Microsoft Excel document at which point the new table can be operated on by the user (Page 273-274, "Edit → Copy" and "Edit → Paste" of Winter et al.).

11. **Regarding dependent claims 8-14**, Winter et al. disclose a method in which the data items in the table are compared to each other and can also be extracted and moved if necessary (Page 236-237, "Table → Sort" of Winter et al.). It is inherent that a table is a method of laying out data. Thus, the method disclosed by Winter et al. is operable on both a table for layout and a data table.

12. **Regarding dependent claims 15-22**, Winter et al. disclose a method in which the user selects row(s), column(s), nonconsecutive cells of the table, or the whole table to be copied to a clipboard and from that clipboard items can be pulled into and

displayed in a separate document. (Page 260-261, "Selecting Cells"; Page 273, "Edit → Copy"; and Page 52-54, "Edit → Paste Special" of Winter et al.). Thus, allowing the user to make a selection of a uniform size of rows and columns, eliminating unwanted data. Winter et al. also disclose a method in which data is updated within the table, at any time, if necessary if there is a change in an item contained within the formula which dictates any data contained within the table (Page 255-256, "Creating Formulas" of Winter et al.). Any table contained within the current operating table may be operated on under the same conditions.

13. **Regarding independent claim 23 and dependent claims 24-44**, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 1-22. Thus, the claims are rejected along the same rationale as claims 1-22.

14. **Regarding independent claim 45**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 1. Thus the claim is rejected along the same rationale as claim 1.

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent Number 5,708,730, issued on January 13, 1998, by Itonori.

US Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0054126, filed on October 16, 1998, by Gamon.


US Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0071848, US priority date December 15, 1998, by Carroll.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua D Campbell whose telephone number is (703)305-5764. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (703)308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

jdc
August 29, 2003


STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER